

ABSTRACT

5 A laser output beam is directed into an acousto-optic cell. The acousto-optic cell is driven by RF voltages at a plurality of different frequencies. Portions of the laser output beam are diffracted by the acousto-optic cell at a plurality of different angles corresponding the different drive frequencies. The different portions of the output beam define a plurality of secondary beams. The magnitude of the RF voltages applied to the acousto-optic cell and the power in the laser output beam may be cooperatively varied to provide a predetermined power in each of the secondary beams.